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half a year's interest on £4,500 treasury bills, payable the 25th of March instant.

From this view of our present property, it must appear, no doubt, that a considerable increase, both as to fund and annual income, will be requisite, to accomplish the original purposes of the Institution; and more especially, to fulfil the hopes of all who are anxious that the establishment should become as respectable as the metropolis of advancing Ireland ought to exhibit: but little doubt is entertained, that if future Committees take this matter into due and seasonable consideration, and judiciously and opportunely put prudent means into operation, sufficient funds will be obtained for every valuable purpose; and it is earnestly recommended, that so essential an object be early attended to; especially with respect to subscriptions of future proprietors, of future life-subscribers, and of present and future annual-subscribers.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN INSTITUTION, TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS, HELD THE THIRD OF MARCH, 1813.

IN presenting to the Proprietary a report of the transactions of the past year, the Committee are happy to announce the general prosperity of the Institution. Many of the objects pointed out in the original prospectus have been attained, many of the views already realized.

In addition to the ordinary details of such an establishment as this, the attention of the Committee has been directed more especially to three very important subjects, the Circulating Library, the Lectures and Apparatus, the Funds.

The books for circulation have

been chosen with care in the various walks of literature, constituting, it is believed, a selection chaste, elegant, and instructive: many volumes are at present in preparation to be placed on our shelves, and the original catalogue has recently been much increased. To augment this portion of the library department, is of essential consequence, in the more extensive diffusion of science and of taste. It may here be remarked, that the purchase of books for the permanent library has necessarily been limited; our limited finances requiring to be directed into other channels. The opening of the Circulating Library rendered the assistance of a sub-librarian indispensable; besides, the hours of attendance in the permanent library, together with other avocations of his office, made the duties of the librarian quite too burdensome: the news-rooms also stood in need of special superintendence, which has now devolved more particularly on the sub-librarian.

A spacious lecture-room, capable at present of containing 300 persons, has been erected: by the addition of galleries, it can accommodate 450. Connected with the theatre, are rooms for philosophical apparatus; for forming a cabinet of natural history; and for a chemical laboratory: the latter two it is intended to occupy, if circumstances favour; some very valuable apparatus and instruments have already been procured.

It demanded no little consideration on the part of the Committee, which of the various branches of knowledge should have precedence as subject matter of the lectures, and which would, at the outset, be most appropriate to the infant state of the Institution. Natural Philosophy was at length preferred, as at once leading the mind to the contemplation

of the most sublime truths, and directing the exercise of its faculties to the purposes of common life, and to the improvement of the useful arts. To fill this lectureship, Dr. Samuel Litton, whose character for information and talent stood high in our University, was appointed; and he is now delivering a series of lectures, which, for extent and variety of matter, has never been attempted in a popular, or, perhaps, in a scientific course in this country. By commencing, in this way, what may be termed an experiment in the system of lectures, the Committee, by no means, intended to exclude from adoption other subjects of science or of art. Moral Philosophy, Agriculture and Rural Economy, Polite Literature, Mineralogy, Chemistry, are all useful and interesting themes; and it is not idle speculation to hope, that each may, ere long, be cultivated with success, under the protecting care of this Institution.

At the beginning of the year, the original capital was nearly expended; and the *probable* regular income arising from Subscribers falling very short of *certain* expenditure, it became a prominent object to provide a fund not merely adequate to the necessary disbursements, but which should also enable the Institution to increase its accommodations, and to put out of question its future stability. After mature discussion, the best mode of providing for existing and contingent wants appeared to be the issue of 100 additional shares under certain regulations; and also the prospective demand of an admission-fee of five guineas to commence the following year. These measures were confirmed by a special general meeting of Proprietors.

By this plan, a sum of £5000 has been added to our capital, and, no doubt, the list of annual subscribers increased.

The expenses of the Institution this year, are £937 19s. 8d., and the income arising from annual subscriptions, interest on treasury-bills, and on advance to bookseller, is £935 7s., leaving the income of the present year £1 12s. 8d. short of the expenditure. Your Committee conceiving it advisable to reduce as much as possible the absolute yearly engagements of the Institution, have agreed with Mr. Alexander for the purchase of the rent of the house: £2000 of the unexpended balance stands appropriated for that purpose, and the necessary steps have been taken to prepare the deeds of conveyance. The sum of £2496 4s. 8½d. remains unappropriated, and your Committee are strongly impressed with the propriety of retaining in the funds a sum, at least, equal to one year's expenditure.

The Committee trust, that the preceding statement will justify them to the Proprietary, in the sanguine expressions they have used with regard to the success of the Institution. That success they must consider as no longer problematical, and that on the succeeding Committee will devolve rather the duty of choice as to the mode of extending its utility, than of struggling for its means of existence; they trust, that under the superintendence of its future managers, the Dublin Institution will soon become worthy of the metropolis of Ireland, will foster and mature the capabilities of native genius, and, with other contemporary causes, further the great cause of national improvement.